

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

CHERYL KOEHN,	*	
as mother and next friend of	*	No. 11-355V
VANESSIA KOEHN,	*	Special Master Christian J. Moran
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Filed: March 13, 2015
	*	
v.	*	
	*	Attorneys' fees and costs; award
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	in the amount to which
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	respondent does not object.
	*	
Respondent.	*	

P. Leigh O'Dell, Beasley, Allen, et al., Montgomery, AL, for petitioner;
Darryl R. Wishard, United States Dep't of Justice, Washington, DC, for
respondent.

UNPUBLISHED DECISION ON FEES AND COSTS¹

On March 11, 2015, petitioner filed a stipulation of fact concerning final attorneys' fees and costs in the above-captioned matter. Petitioner previously filed a supplemental motion for attorneys' fees and costs to on February 25, 2015. Upon review of petitioner's supplemental motion, respondent raised objections to certain items. Based on subsequent discussions, petitioner amended her application to request \$16,500.00, an amount to which respondent does not object. The Court awards this amount.

On June 6, 2011, Cheryl Koehn filed a petition for compensation alleging that the human papillomavirus ("HPV") vaccine caused her daughter, Vanessia, to

¹ The E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002), requires that the Court post this decision on its website. Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 18(b), the parties have 14 days to file a motion proposing redaction of medical information or other information described in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4). Any redactions ordered by the special master will appear in the document posted on the website.

suffer from systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (“sJIA”). A decision denying entitlement to compensation was issued on May 30, 2013. Decision, 2013 WL 3214877 (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. May 30, 2013). Ms. Koehn filed a motion for review of this decision. Pet’r’s Mot., filed July 1, 2013. The Court of Federal Claims denied Ms. Koehn’s motion (C.K. v. Sec’y of Health & Human Servs., 113 Fed. Cl. 757 (Fed. Cl. 2013)), and the Federal Circuit later affirmed (Koehn v. Sec’y of Health & Human Servs., 773 F.3d 1239 (Fed. Cir. 2014)).

Regardless of whether they entitled to compensation, petitioners who bring their petition in good faith and who have a reasonable basis for the petition may be awarded attorneys’ fees and costs. See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(1). Respondent does not object or dispute that Ms. Koehn’s petition was filed in good faith and with a reasonable basis. See stipulation, filed Mar. 11, 2015.

Petitioner was previously awarded \$82,000.00 for interim fees and costs. Decision, issued Sept. 15, 2014. Petitioner now seeks a total of **\$16,500.00** in final attorneys’ fees and costs for her counsel. Additionally, in compliance with General Order No. 9, petitioner states that she incurred no out-of-pocket litigation expenses while pursuing this claim. Respondent has no objection to the amount requested for attorneys’ fees and costs.

After reviewing the request, the Court awards the following:

A lump sum payment of \$16,500.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner and petitioner’s counsel of record, Patricia Leigh O’Dell, for attorneys’ fees and other litigation costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e).

The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.¹

¹ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Christian J. Moran

Christian J. Moran

Special Master